



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

January 7, 2013

Charles J. Willoughby
Inspector General
District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General
717 14th Street NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Inspector General Willoughby:

As chair of the Committee on Government Operations, I have oversight of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Similar to the investigations and audits conducted by your office, timely and accurate responses to Committee requests will aid the Council in exercising meticulous oversight.

As we begin this council period, the Committee has several concerns. Generally, we are concerned about the time within which the OIG completes its investigations and audits. It is without question that the Committee does not want the OIG to sacrifice the integrity of its investigations merely to produce a report at an earlier date. The process should be measured and undertaken with great care. However, we are concerned that a delay in producing reports compromises everyone's ability to fetter out fraud, abuse and waste, and undermines the public's confidence in the OIG and their confidence in the District's government as a whole.

In order to determine what, if any, legislative steps can be taken, and/or what resources are needed for your office, we request that you provide the Committee with the following:

1. The amount of Full Time Equivalents (FTE) in your office; the amount of unfilled positions; descriptions of the duties of each FTE; and, the percentage of FTE's in your office that are dedicated to conducting investigations and audits.
2. The average amount of audits and investigations that each FTE in your office has conducted every year for the last four years; the average amount of pre-planned (i.e. those identified in the Fiscal Year Audit and Inspection Plan) audits and inspections that your office has conducted over the last four years; and, the average amount of unplanned (i.e. audits and investigations conducted by your office but not identified in the Fiscal Year Audit and Inspection Plan) audits and investigations that your office has conducted over the last four years.
3. The average amount of time it takes for your office to complete pre-planned audits and inspections; and, the average amount of time it takes your office to complete unplanned audits and investigations.
4. A list of the factors that your office has identified as contributing to delays in the completion of investigations.

5. Any recent steps your office has taken to improve efficiency; and, the steps your office plans to take going forward to improve efficiency.

Additionally, the Committee is very concerned about recent allegations regarding the OIG's "Investigation into Cheating on the DC Comprehensive Assessment System Standardized Exams Administered by the District of Columbia Public Schools."

Comprehensive investigations are a critical tool for ensuring that the District of Columbia government operates efficiently and legally. The articles published in the Washington Post, USA Today, and the Washington City Paper, along with the upcoming report on Frontline, all allege that the investigation into cheating at District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) was inadequate. Amongst other things, there is an allegation that the OIG never interviewed one of the principals with information germane to the alleged cheating; that the OIG relied too heavily on an investigation conducted by a third party; and, that the OIG failed to investigate reported irregularities at other DCPS locations.

Accordingly, the Committee requests that you provide the following:

1. Did the OIG interview former principal, Ms. Adell Cothorne? If not, why?
2. Did the OIG interview students? If not, why?
3. Did the OIG rely on the investigation completed by a third-party in making conclusions about the cheating at Noyes Education Campus (Noyes)? If so, why?
4. Did the OIG expand the scope of its investigation beyond Noyes? If not, why?
5. Did the OIG consult experts on the significance of the erasure marks? If not, why?

The Committee appreciates your response to these requests within 15 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ronan Gulstone, Committee Director, at (202) 478-2456.

Sincerely,



Kenyan R. McDuffie
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair, Committee on Government Operations

cc: Councilmember Muriel Bowser
Councilmember David Catania
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Vincent Orange